

"FIRST IN, LAST OUT"

*Newsletter of OCS consolidated class 52
January Edition*



**Candidates bring in 2011
with first drill of New Year**

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**Upcoming drills**





# What to expect for upcoming drills

Officer Candidate William Hood, February platoon leader, briefed officer candidates from Officer Candidate School consolidated class 52 at Camp Fretterd, Md., Jan.

8 during the Operation Order brief on what events to expect during the upcoming inactive duty training weekend, Feb. 4-6. Hood also provided more information to the candidates on the OPORD and Warning Order for the upcoming IDT, Apr. 8-10 while Officer Candidate Rodney Martin, March platoon leader, briefed on March's IDT, Mar. 4-6, during the training meeting Jan. 30.

## **February**

The Feb. IDT will take place at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation, Md.

Key events for the IDT weekend include a Military Intelligence exam and an Operations Order exam that candidates must pass in order to continue on in OCS. Candidates will also

.....  
“We need to bring it  
to the next level”  
.....

-Officer Candidate William Hood  
February Platoon Leader

their bodies, and especially their feet, are capable of handling the march. More information about how to avoid blisters and prepare for the march should be

take another APFT that they are expected to pass with at least a 220 personal score and a platoon average of 255.

Candidates will also use February's IDT to begin preparing for the 7-mile ruck march scheduled for March's IDT by performing a 3 and a half mile ruck for PT Sunday. In case of inclement weather or conditions, an alternate PT plan will be put into place.

For more information on the Feb. IDT consult the training schedule.

## **March**

The March IDT will also take place at CFMR.

The key events include a Military Tactics exam and a 7-mile ruck march that candidates should begin training for now so

sent out by Martin later in the month.

For more information on the March IDT consult the respective training schedule.

## **April**

For the April IDT, candidates will travel to Bethany Beach Training Site, Delaware.

The key events for the IDT include Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. There will be no exams for this IDT weekend.

For more information on what was discussed during the training meeting, look for the minutes to be distributed.

For more information on events scheduled during IDTs, refer to respective OPORD, WARNOs and training schedules.

## **On the Cover**

Officer Candidate Lynae Johnson, January platoon leader, hands over the company to Officer Candidate William Hood, February platoon leader, during a change-of-command ceremony Jan. 9. When Officer Candidate School class 52 and 53 combine to form a company, class 52 platoon sergeant takes over as acting 1st sergeant and platoon leader steps in as acting company commander.

*All photos and stories by Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly unless otherwise noted.*

# *Graduated class returns to present gift*

**Candidate's from graduated class 51, currently 2nd Lt's, present Lt. Col. Xavier Dashiell, OCS battalion commander, with a gift for the 70th regimental staff. It is a tradition for the graduated OCS class to return to present a gift.**



**Officer Candidate School class 52 and 53 combine to form a company and watch as graduated class 51, currently 2nd Lt.'s present the regimental staff a gift Jan. 8.**



**Lt. Col. Xavier Dashiell, OCS battalion commander, shows off the walking stick presented to him from OCS graduated class 51, currently 2nd Lt.'s.**



# Candidates bring in 2011 with first drill of New Year

The holiday season may have come to an end, but the training of future leaders in the Maryland, District of Columbia and West Virginia Army National Guards continues on at the Maryland Officer Candidate School.

Maryland OCS combined class 52 performed their first inactive duty training period in the New Year Jan. 7-9 at Camp Fretterd Military Reservation.

The training period focused primarily on two areas of study, Call for Fire and Military History. Both blocks of instruction demanded intense concentration from the candidates and concluded with an exam to test their knowledge. Candidates were required to pass each exam in order to continue on in the program. As the OCS program is not designed to get easier as it progresses, Call for Fire was the first exam in phase 2 that not all of the candidates were able to pass on the first attempt. However, all were able to pass the second, and final, attempt. The Jan. IDT was not only demanding in the classroom, but it also served as a pivotal point for the candidates to be able to evaluate where each of them stands

in the developmental process of becoming future officers. Each candidate had the opportunity to provide critical feedback to their fellow Soldiers, as well as evaluate themselves, to determine if becoming an officer was truly the best career choice.

"It was a challenging drill for all of us, and on a deeper level than in the past," said Officer Candidate Jacob Day, January IDT 3rd squad leader. "January's drill felt like the beginning of a long transformation for our class. Although we continue to face challenges, I left CFMR confident in my classmates' ability to return a more cohesive and more prepared unit."

While the officer candidates have successfully passed the classroom exams during each IDT period, academics is not the only obstacle they must face. Each drill, candidates endure physical training, barracks inspections, and rotate through leadership positions to prove themselves capable of leading fellow candidates, and potentially future troops. The leadership positions test the candidates' ability to adapt under stressful situations and overcome any adverse situations that arise.

"When you're in a leadership role things aren't always going to go as planned, not only in the OCS world, but in the operational world too," said Capt. Christopher Kinney, W. Va. Teach Assess and Counsel officer. "It's your responsibility to continue the effort, to do what you're supposed to do to accomplish the mission."

With eight months left in the program, OCS class 52 still has many expectations to meet and exceed before earning their commissions. In order to reach their end goal, they must continue to move forward, come together as a team and arrive at each IDT prepared for training.

"Our responsibility is to wake up every morning this month, and going forward, reminding ourselves that today we strive for excellence as an Army officer," said Day. "We may only be basic candidates, but if we continue to think as basic candidates we will never progress."

The officer candidates also the Antietam National Battlefield Jan. 30 in order to begin preparing for the upcoming staff ride taking place during July IDT. For more information turn to pages 6-7.



*Officer Candidate William Hood, February IDT platoon leader, briefs the candidates on the operations order Jan. 8 for what to expect in the upcoming IDT Feb. 4-6.*

**"Our responsibility is to wake up every morning this month, and going forward, reminding ourselves that today we strive for excellence as an Army officer"**

**-Officer Candidate Jacob Day  
January 3rd squad leader**



*Capt. Bruce Parker, District of Columbia instructor, teaches Officer Candidate School combined class 52 how to calculate how much distance to add when transmitting a call for fire. Candidates had two primary blocks of instruction during Jan. IDT, Call for Fire and Military History.*



*Officer Candidate Ryan Post conducts a brief on military courtesies in front of the other candidates Jan. 9.*



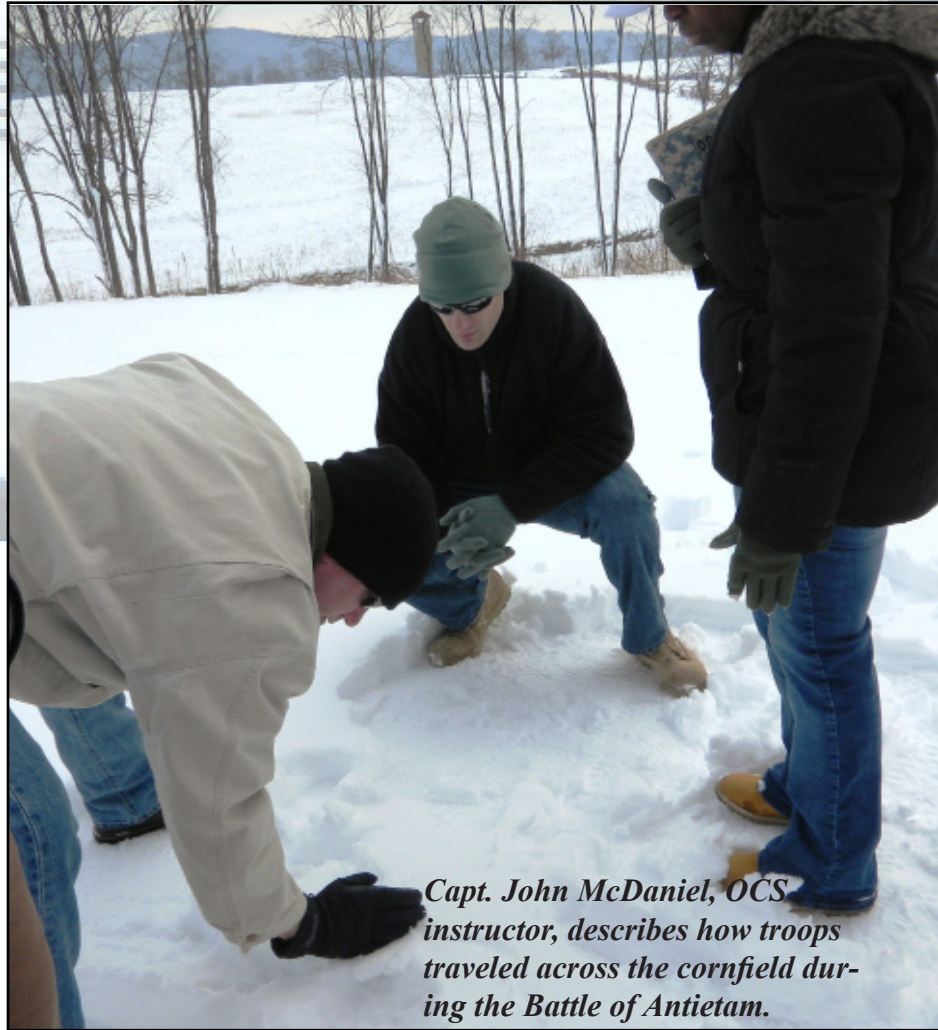
*Class 53, phase 0 candidates, watch as class 52 demonstrates how to conduct a change-of-command Jan. 9.*



*Officer Candidate Lynae Johnson, January platoon leader, and Officer Candidate William Hood, February platoon leader, "dosy-do" during the change-of-command ceremony Jan. 9.*



# Candidates visit Antietam National Battlefield



*Capt. John McDaniel, OCS instructor, describes how troops traveled across the cornfield during the Battle of Antietam.*

ANTIETAM  
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



“A Soldier’s life included endless marching and drilling, excruciating boredom, sick call, guard duty, inadequate food and homesickness, only to be interrupted by brief periods of terror and danger such as the Battle of Antietam.”

*-The Story of September 17, 1862*

*Antietam National Battlefield visitor center*

*Cannons with the barrel facing into the ground are placed to mark where a general officer was killed or wounded during battle. There are six total across the battlefield, three on each the Confederate and Union side.*



*Officer Candidate Sean Gramm talks to Officer Candidate Tanika Andrews about the battle.*



*Monuments dedicated to different units and states are located across the battlefield grounds honoring the sacrifices made during the Battle of Antietam.*



Officer candidates took the opportunity to visit the Antietam National Battlefield Jan. 30 to begin preparing for the upcoming staff ride during July inactive duty training.

Capt. John McDaniel, OCS instructor, briefed an overview of the battle while the candidates explored the grounds.

The participants included Officer Candidates William Hood, Sean Gramm, Ryan Post, Rebecca Smith, Tanika Andrews, Vincent Chen and Jessica Donnelly.